CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST:
Waiver Request of the Age/Grade Group Menu Pattern Requirements for Take-Home Meals in the National School Lunch Program

1. **State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:**
   Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
   Child Nutrition & Wellness (CNW)
   900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 251
   Topeka, KS 66612
   Cheryl S Johnson, Director
   csjohnson@ksde.org
   785-224-8479 (cell)

2. **Region:**
   Mountain Plains (MPRO)

3. **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:**
   The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is requesting the waiver on behalf of all National School Lunch Program (NSLP) sponsors determined to be in good standing in the State of Kansas operating during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

4. **Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:**
   This request is to waive the regulatory requirement to serve quantities of food specified in the meal pattern for each age/grade group served for the NSLP. We propose following only the K-8 meal pattern for take home meals. This will allow flexible and alternate meal service during this school year to minimize potential exposure to the COVID-19 in the event of off-site distance learning.

   Meals served and consumed in the building would still follow the NSLP meal pattern. This waiver applies only to take-home meals.

   Requirement under 7 CFR 210.10: Schools must offer each child the quantities specified in the meal pattern for each age/grade group served in the school.

   **Challenges Without the Waiver**
   - If schools use off-site remote learning in the school year because of COVID-19 concerns, students would not be on site and able to consume traditional school meals.
   - School districts will be serving meals in a variety of ways during this school year to reduce transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing. Requiring age/grade group menu planning will pose the following challenges:
     - Students doing off-site remote learning and have take-home meals would need to have different meal packs based on the grade group. If a family had students in multiple grade groups, it would complicate the distribution process.
Meal preparation for take home meals is more complicated because there would need to be meals of each grade group available.

- If buses are delivering meals, it complicates delivery to have different meal pattern portions needed for different stops.
- Potential increased staffing needs due to multiple portion sizes needed.

Goal of Waiver to Improve Services
- Allow NSLP sites to serve one meal pattern to all enrolled students (regardless of age/grade group) who are participating in off-site remote learning not in daily attendance at the physical location (school building site) where they normally would have eaten.
- Allow NSLP school sites to maximize program participation.
- Allow for centralized and efficient meal production, staffing, purchasing, and reduced food waste. This will help control costs for the sponsor.

Expected Outcomes of Waiver
- Allow the NSLP K-8 meal pattern to be used for all age/grade groups when meals are being distributed for home consumption.
- Allow sponsors to provide meals to students participating in off-site remote learning to help ensure they do not experience a lapse in food security. Anticipated methods may include but not be limited to: Grab-N-Go, home delivery, drop sites at designated locations, etc.
- Remove some of the challenges for sponsors in serving meals during social distancing.
- Sponsors will continue to claim reimbursement for meals under NSLP.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSLA Citations</th>
<th>7 CFR Citations</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7 CFR 210.10</td>
<td>Schools must offer each child the quantities specified in the meal pattern for each age/grade group served in the school.</td>
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6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:
There are no expected impacts on technology, State systems, or monitoring.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:
There are no regulatory barriers at the State level to provide the requested waiver.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:
There are no challenges anticipated at the State and sponsor level.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:
The waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government.
10. **Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:**
   Implementation date requested: August 1, 2020.
   Time period requested: June 30, 2021.

11. **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**
   Current NSLP monitoring of sponsors is included in the administrative review. This practice will continue as it is consistent with 7 CFR 210.18 requirements.

12. **Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):**
   No later than December 31, 2021, KSDE will report to USDA the number of sponsors and sites that used this waiver.

13. **Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**
   Notice is posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New.

14. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

   Cheryl S. Johnson, MS, RD, LD
   Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education
   Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: csjohnson@ksde.org

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:**

*FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.*

**Date request was received at Regional Office:**

☐ Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

**Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations:**